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PLASTIC MAN

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THE HYPNOTIST!



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PLASTIC MAN

DON'T BOTHER ME, PLASTIC MAN! I'M BUSY!

YOU'RE PRETTY SHARP, MR. PORCUPINE, BUT YOUR ARGUMENTS JUST DON'T PENETRATE WITH ME!

THE POLICE IN EVERY STATE ARE STUCK! CHIEF BRANNER OF THE FBI IS STUCK! EVERYONE IS STUCK FOR A WAY TO STOP THE NEW CRIMINAL MENACE! EVEN THOSE TWO ACE FBI AGENTS, PLASTIC MAN AND HIS PAL, WOOZY, REALLY GET THE POINT WHEN THEY MEET THE NEW INVULNERABLE BANDIT! IT TAKES ALL OF PLASTIC MAN'S POWERS TO STRETCH AND CHANGE SHAPE TO BATTLE THE NATION'S NUMBER ONE ENEMY... THE PORCUPINE!

PUFF PUFF WHAT'S THE RUSH, PLAS?

I DON'T KNOW BUT CHIEF BRANNER'S MESSAGE SAID TO GET DOWN TO HEADQUARTERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

WE GOT YOUR MESSAGE, CHIEF! HERE WE ARE!

F.B.I.

YEAH, WHAT'S THE EMERGENCY? WHO DO WE HAVE TO TANGLE WITH!

COME ON INTO THE PROJECTION ROOM! I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING!

OH BOY, FREE MOVIES! THAT'S SWELL!

I'M SURPRISED AT YOU, CHIEF! I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD PULL SUCH PRACTICAL JOKES AS SENDING AN EMERGENCY CALL FOR US TO SEE A MOVIE!

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, PLAS! JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU'VE SEEN THE PICTURE!

NOW WATCH THAT MAN! HE'S THE ONE I WANT YOU TO SEE!

CITY SAVING BANK

LOOK! THE BULLETS BOUNCE RIGHT OFF HIM!

HAH! HAH! YOU COPS CAN'T STOP ME! I'M WEARING BULLET PROOF UNDERWEAR!

BANG! BANG!

I'LL STOP THE THIEVING...

..AIIIEEE!

THAT WILL TEACH YOU NOT TO TRY TO STOP ME!

HE'S GETTING AWAY WITH THE MONEY!

WHAT CAN WE DO? WE CAN'T STOP HIM!

MEN, YOU HAVE JUST SEEN A REAL LIFE PICTURE OF THAT NEW SUPER CRIMINAL, THE PORCU-PINE IN ACTION!

SNAP!

THE POLICE OF SEVERAL STATES HAVE BEEN HELPLESS TO STOP THIS MASTER CRIMINAL WHO HAS A MANIA FOR FRESH, CRISP, NEWLY PRINTED CURRENCY! THE HOLLYWOOD POLICE FILMED THE CROOK IN ACTION AND SENT THE PICTURES TO THE F.B.I. AS THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ATTEMPT TO STOP THE PORCUPINE!

I'VE RECEIVED WORD THAT THE PORCUPINE IS HEADING FOR THIS CITY! I EXPECT YOU TWO TO STOP THIS MENACE TO SOCIETY!

CHIEF, I JUST REMEMBERED THAT I'VE GOT SOME VACATION TIME DUE!

THERE'LL BE NO VACATIONS UNTIL THE PORCUPINE IS CAUGHT!

...ULPS!

LATER...

PLAS, THE PORCUPINE IS A TOUGH CHARACTER! WE'VE GOT TO FIGURE HIS EVERY POSSIBLE MOVE!

CHIEF, I'VE GOT AN IDEA! INSTEAD OF TRYING TO FIND THIS PORCU-PINE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO LEAD HIM TO A TRAP!

I'M GOING DOWN TO THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE! I'VE GOT A LITTLE TRICK UP MY SLEEVE THAT SHOULD SMOKE OUT THE PORCUPINE!

SHORTLY AFTER...

...SO IF YOU RUN THIS STORY IT WILL HELP US A LOT!

SURE, PLASTIC MAN! IT WILL BE ON THE FRONT PAGE OF TO-MORROW MORNING'S EDITION!

EDITOR

THIS IS WHAT THE ARTICLE WILL LOOK LIKE IN THE PAPER!

NEWS

WEATHER

MOOLA BANK AND TRUST COMPANY REPLACING ALL THEIR MONEY WITH FRESH CLEAN BILLS AS PAR OF "KEEP THE CITY CLEAN" CAMPAIGN

THE NEXT DAY...

WHAT ARE WE HIDING HERE FOR, HUH, PLAS?

WE'RE WAITING FOR THE PORCUPINE TO SHOW UP!

THE PORCUPINE! THERE MUST BE BETTER HIDING PLACES! HE MIGHT SEE US HERE!

QUIET! HERE HE COMES, NOW!

I AM THE PORCUPINE! HAND OVER ALL YOUR NEW BILLS AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!

Y-YES SIR!

H-HERE Y-YOU ARE!

AH! NICE FRESH, CRISP BILLS! I LOVE THEM!

WELL, THANKS FOR YOUR, HAH, HAH, CONTRIBUTION! I'LL BE GOING NOW!

HOLD ON A MINUTE!

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!

MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW IT, BUD, BUT YOU'RE TANGLING WITH...

...THE PORCUPINE!

HUH!

I'VE A TRICK OR TWO OF MY OWN! NOW THAT YOU'RE TRAPPED YOU'D BETTER COME QUIETLY!

YOU FORGET, COPPER, THAT A PORCUPINE NOT ONLY EXTENDS HIS QUILLS BUT HE ALSO SHOOTS THEM OUT!

OW! THOSE KNIVES ARE TOO SHARP FOR ME!

HAH! HAH! THESE COPS NEVER LEARN UNTIL THEY ARE HURT!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, PLAS? I'D GO AFTER THE BIG LUG MYSELF BUT I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU RIGHT NOW!

LATER THAT NIGHT...

THE PORCUPINE HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED HE'S GOING TO ROB THE DOUGH NATIONAL BANK TOMORROW MORNING! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO TO STOP HIM?

I DON'T KNOW CHIEF! I'M TRYING TO THINK OF SOMETHING!

THIS IS THE HARDEST CASE I'VE EVER HAD!

HARD! THAT'S THE WORD "HARD"! I THINK I'VE GOT THE ANSWER, CHIEF!

THOSE QUILLS WOULD BE USELESS AGAINST HARD RUBBER! I'M HEADING FOR THE F.B.I. LABORATORY!

SOON AT THE F.B.I. LABORATORY...

YOU'RE SOLID RUBBER NOW, PLAS! EXCEPT FOR YOUR JOINTS YOU CAN'T BEND AT ALL!

GOOD! NOW I'VE GOT TO MEET WOOZY AT THE DOUGH NATIONAL BANK BEFORE THE PORCUPINE GETS THERE!

F.B.I. LABORAT

LATER AT THE BANK...

THERE'S OUR MAN! THIS TIME HE WON'T GET AWAY!

LET'S GET HIM, PLAS! I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

TELLER

YOUR MONEY COLLECTING DAYS ARE OVER, PORCUPINE!

SOME COPS JUST NEVER LEARN!

PLUNK!

PLUNK!

HUH! THE QUILLS DON'T HURT HIM!

I'VE MET MY MATCH! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! I'VE GOT IT! I'LL USE THAT TUB OF LARD TO MAKE MY GETAWAY!

COME HERE, FAT BOY! YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME GET OUT OF HERE!

WHO, ME? I'M NOT MUCH USE I ASSURE YOU, MR. PORCUPINE! YOU'D DO BETTER TO JUST LEAVE ME!

SHUT UP! I'M LEAVING HERE AND IF ANYONE TRIES TO STOP ME I'LL CUT THIS TUB OF LARD TO RIBBONS!

I CAN'T STRETCH OR RUN FAST NOW! THE BEST I CAN DO IS WALK AFTER THEM AND SEE WHERE THEY ARE GOING!

HALP! HALP! PLAS, DON'T LET HIM TAKE ME!

I'M ON MY WAY TO THE MAZUMA SAVINGS BANK WHERE I'M GOING TO CLEAN THEM OUT! YOU STAY AWAY OR YOUR FRIEND IS DONE FOR!

I'M SORRY, WOOZY, BUT I'D BETTER DO AS HE SAYS!

TO THINK =SNIFF= DESERTED BY MY OWN PAL! I'LL NEVER GET OUT OF THIS ALIVE!

I'M IN A FINE FIX! I EVEN KNOW WHICH BANK HE'S GOING TO ROB NEXT AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT!

BUT, WAIT! THAT TURKISH BATH PLACE GIVES ME AN IDEA!

TURKISH BATH

I WANT THE WORKS... AND MAKE IT FAST!

MEN

TURKISH BATHS

MASSAGE...

AH, THIS WILL TAKE SOME OF THE STIFFNESS OUT OF ME!

SLAP!

SLAP!

I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE MY OLD SELF AGAIN!

SOON...

NOW TO GET OVER TO THE MAZUMA SAVINGS BANK BEFORE THE PORCUPINE ARRIVES!

TURKISH BATH

LATER, AT THE BANK...

HAND OVER ALL YOUR NEW BILLS AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT! YOU'RE DEALING WITH THE PORCUPINE!

HERE! TAKE IT! WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE!

I WANT YOU TO KNOW I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!

HERE, YOU CARRY THIS! WE'RE GOING BACK TO MY HOTEL! I'VE DONE ENOUGH WORK FOR ONE DAY!

YES, SIR!

PUT THE LOOT OVER ON THE TABLE AND DON'T GET ANY IDEAS WHILE I TAKE OFF THIS CONTRAPTION!

D-DON'T POINT THAT GUN AT ME! IT MIGHT HAVE BULLETS IN IT!

WHEW! THIS CONTRAPTION IS A HEAVY THING TO TOTE AROUND ALL DAY!

WHY, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SKINNY WEASEL! IF MY BUDDY PLAS WERE HERE NOW...

BUT HE'S NOT HERE! SO SHUT UP AND EMPTY THAT MONEY ON THE TABLE! I WANT TO COUNT IT!

PLAS AND I, WE COULD TAKE HIM! IF ONLY PLAS WERE...

AWK!

I AM HERE, WOOZY! AND WE ARE GOING TO TAKE THIS PUNK IN BUT FIRST I HAD TO GET YOU OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE!

PLASTIC MAN!

HIMSELF! AND THIS TIME IN SOFT RUBBER!

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME! I'LL FILL YOU FULL OF LEAD!

BANG! BANG!

BANG!

YOU'RE TICKLING ME!

HUH! THE BULLETS DON'T HURT HIM!

BANG! BANG!

NOW IT'S MY TURN TO TICKLE YOU!

UGH!

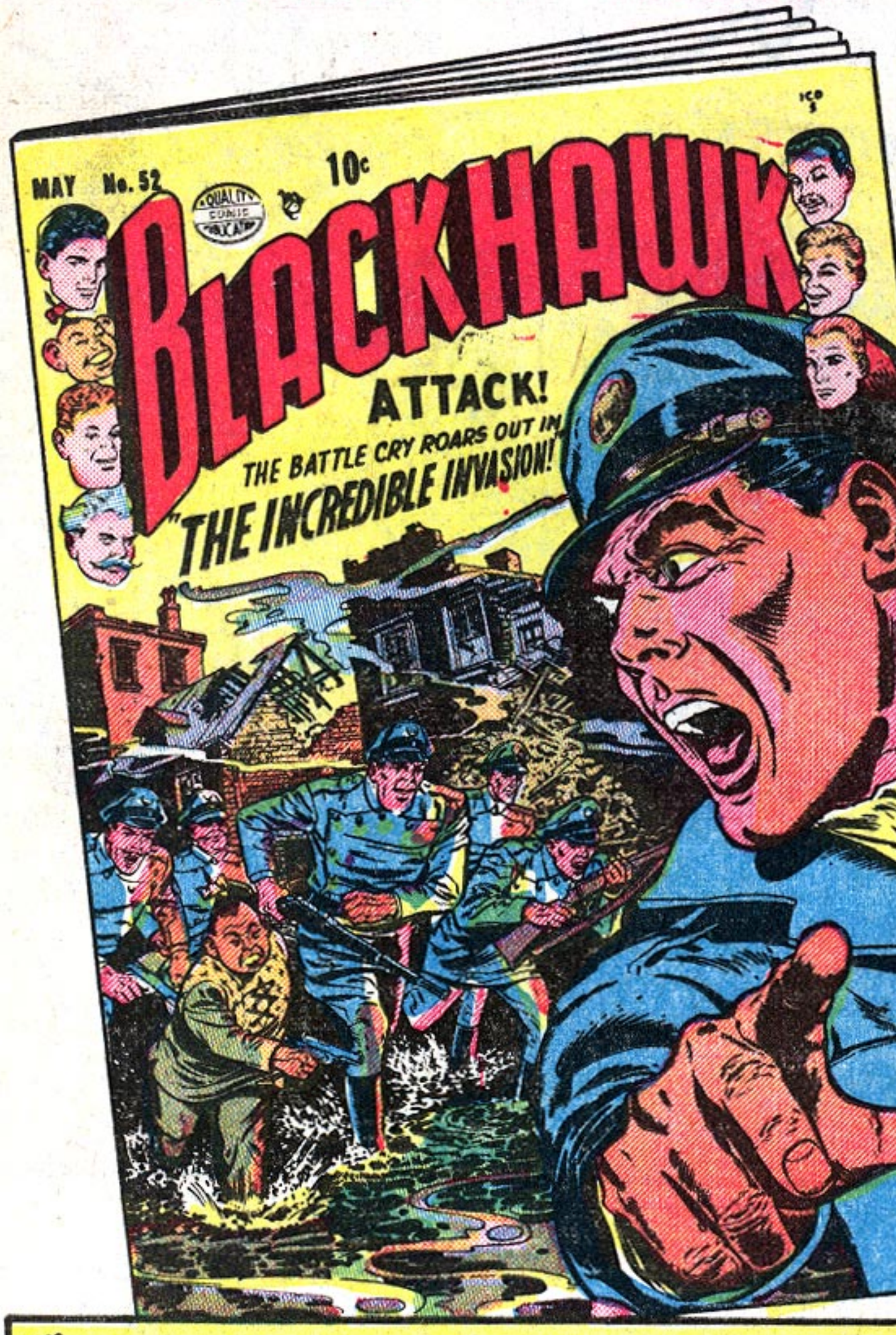
ATTABOY, PLAS! WE'LL SHOW HIM!

LATER, AT F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS...

THAT WAS A FINE JOB YOU DID! THAT PIN CUSHION WILL BE LOCKED AWAY FOR A LONG TIME!

YES, CHIEF, WE HAD A A PRETTY TOUGH TIME BUT AFTER ALL WHAT CROOK CAN STAND UP AGAINST THE TEAM OF PLASTIC MAN AND WOOZY!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A COUNTRY TRIES A MOCK INVASION?



SEE THE BLACKHAWKS CAUGHT IN A TRAP THEY NEVER EXPECTED!

SEE THE TRAGEDY THAT BEFALLS A DEMOCRATIC NATION WHEN THE UNSUSPECTED DRILL TURNS INTO THE REAL THING!

SEE THIS TIMELY ADVENTURE IN

"THE INCREDIBLE INVASION"

Starring

THE BLACKHAWKS

IN THE MAY ISSUE . . . ON SALE FEBRUARY 22nd

DON'T MISS IT! IT'S HOT!

WOW!

YOU SHOULD NEVER PLAY WITH MATCHES! SOMEBODY MAY GET BURNED!

MATCHES

FARMER BLAKE WAS VERY KIND TO LET ME USE HIS BARN AS MY LABORATORY! I'M ON THE VERGE OF MAKING A GREAT CHEMICAL DISCOVERY!

HEY! WHAT...!

THE FLUID HAS PUT OUT THE FIRES! EUREKA! I'VE DISCOVERED A NEW KIND OF FIRE EXTINGUISHER!

HELLO, IS THIS THE PARKER CHEMICAL WORKS? I WANT YOU TO MAKE UP A HUGE VAT OF THE NEW FIRE EXTINGUISHING FLUID I DISCOVERED! THE FORMULA? WELL, YOU TAKE A SPOONFUL OF VINEGAR, A PINCH OF SALT, ADD SOME ETC.

WITH MY NEW FIRE EXTINGUISHER I'LL BE A HERO! GOSH, I WOULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT MAN IF I HAD LIVED IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS-

BURNING OF ROME...

CHICAGO FIRE...

AND WOOZY'S DISCOVERY RECEIVES GREAT ACCLAIM IN THE NEWSPAPERS...

DAILY BULLETIN WEATHER RAIN

WOOZY WINKS LOCAL GENIUS INVENTS AMAZING NEW FIRE EXTINGUISHING FLUID!

HITS THE JACK POT

MR. PARKER WANTS TO SEE ME ABOUT MY DISCOVERY! HE SAID HE HAS A BUSINESS MAN WHO WANTS TO MARKET THE PRODUCT! MAYBE I SHOULD LET SOMEONE ELSE HANDLE THE BUSINESS WHILE I CONCENTRATE ON MY CREATIVE GENIUS!

PARKER CHEMICAL WORKS

PARKER CHEMICAL

THEN IT'S AGREED, WOOZY, THAT MR. E.Z. FLAME WILL PUT UP YOUR DISCOVERY IN FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND SELL IT TO THE PUBLIC!

I AGREE! WE SHOULD LET THE PUBLIC HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THIS NEW MIRACLE!

AGREED! AND AS AN ADVERTISING STUNT I'LL GIVE OUT FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FREE TO ALL THE NEIGHBORING FARMERS!

BUT BACK AT HIS WAREHOUSE MR. E. Z. FLAME HAS OTHER IDEAS!

HEE! HEE! I'LL FILL THESE CONTAINERS WITH KEROSENE AND WHEN PEOPLE TRY TO PUT OUT THEIR FIRES, THE FIRES WILL ONLY GROW BIGGER! *HEE! HEE!* THEY DON'T CALL ME THE WORLD'S GREATEST FIREBUG FOR NOTHING!

WOOZY FIRE EXTINGUISHER

KEROSEN

A FEW DAYS LATER, ON ONE OF THE NEARBY FARMS...

HEY, SI! LOOK! THERE'S A FIRE IN THE WHEAT FIELD!

QUICK! LET'S GET THOSE WOOZY WINKS EXTINGUISHERS AND PUT IT OUT!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! THE FIRE IS GETTING WORSE!

CRACKLE!

ROAR!

THESE CONSARNED EXTINGUISHERS ARE NO GOOD! THEY ONLY MADE THE FIRE BIGGER!

YEP! IT LOOKS AS IF WE'RE GOING TO BE IN FOR A FOREST FIRE NOW!

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE CHEMICAL PLANT...

I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS TANK FULL OF EXTINGUISHER FLUID BACK TO MY LABORATORY FOR MORE EXPERIMENTS! SO LONG!

THAT LOOKS LIKE A BIG FIRE OVER AT ZEKE'S PLACE! I'D BETTER GET OVER THERE! THEY MIGHT NEED MY EXPERT OPINION!

HI, MEN! I SAW THE FIRE AND I...

THAT'S WOOZY WINKS! HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!

WE'LL FIX HIM! GET THE SHOT GUNS!

HEY! YOU MUST BE MAKING A MISTAKE!

FILL HIM FULL OF BUCKSHOT, SI!

BAM! BAM!

WINKS FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

ULP! I'D BETTER SCRAM! OH! I'VE LOST CONTROL OF THE TRUCK!

WINKS FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

SOON...

GEE, I JUST GOT THE TRUCK UNDER CONTROL! I WONDER WHY THEY WERE SHOOTING AT ME! HUH, THE FIRE IS OUT!

YOU DID A GREAT JOB, WOOZY! YOU PUT THE FIRE OUT ALL BY YOURSELF!

YEAH! AND WE GOT THE CULPRIT RESPONSIBLE FOR IT! WE CAUGHT HIM WATCHING THE FIRE AND HE CONFESSED THAT HE PUT KEROSENE IN THE EXTINGUISHERS!

PLASTIC MAN

PLASTIC MAN, YOU ARE COMPLETELY IN MY POWER! OBEY!

YES, MASTER!

HEE! HAW!

MANY A CRIMINAL HAS TRIED AND FAILED TO PUT AN END TO PLASTIC MAN! BUT WHEN THE INDIA... RUBBER F.B.I. MAN MEETS UP WITH HYPO THE HYPNOTIST ...THE EYES HAVE IT!

IT'S THE MARTIN BOYS, WOOZY! COME ON! WE CAN'T LET THOSE CROOKS GET AWAY!

I'M RIGHT WITH YOU, PLAS! WE'LL CATCH THOSE...

...ULP! I TRIPPED!

COME ON, GET UP! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

WE'VE LOST THEM! THEY PROBABLY GOT AWAY DOWN THE ALLEYS!

PSHAW! AND IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!

MEANWHILE IN A NEARBY CELLAR HIDEOUT...

WHEW! WE GOT AWAY FROM PLASTIC MAN AGAIN!

LET'S FACE IT! WE CAN'T BEAT THAT RUBBER MAN AND ONE OF THESE DAYS HE'LL TRACK US TO THE HIDEOUT AND THAT WILL BE THE END OF US!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...GET RID OF PLASTIC MAN!

GREAT IDEA! BUT HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO IT?

MAYBE WE OUGHT TO GET SOME PROFESSIONAL HELP TO DO THE JOB!

THERE OUGHT TO BE SOMEONE IN THIS GROUP THAT WOULD BE ABLE TO...

WANTED

WANTED

I'VE GOT IT! THIS WILL DO IT!

THAT'S HYPO THE HYPNOTIST!

HE'S WANTED BY THE POLICE IN EVERY STATE FOR HYPNOTIZING HIS VICTIMS AND THEN ROBBING THEM!

WANTED!

YPO

I KNOW WHERE HYPO IS HIDING OUT ON A FARM UP-STATE!

COME ON, LET'S GET UP THERE AND TALK IT OVER WITH HIM! I'M SURE HE'LL HELP US!

NEXT DAY, AT F.B.I. HEAD-QUARTERS...

HUH! PLAS LOOK! THAT'S ONE OF THE MARTIN MOB RIDING BY!

YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT'S GAT MARTIN!

I'M GOING AFTER HIM RIGHT NOW!

HEY! WAIT FOR ME PLAS!

GOOD! PLASTIC MAN IS CHASING ME! I'LL KEEP THE SPEED DOWN SO I WON'T GET TOO FAR AHEAD OF HIM!

LATER...

HE'S FOLLOWED ME AS BAIT SO FAR! NOW TO GET PLASTIC MAN INTO THE BARN!

YOU MIGHT AS WELL STOP RUNNING, GAT! I'VE DISCOVERED YOUR HIDEOUT AND I'M GOING TO....

HUH!

PLUNK!

WHO THREW THAT?

THAT FACE! I'VE SEEN IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE!

LOOK INTO MY EYES, PLASTIC MAN! LOOK DEEP INTO MY EYES!

YOU ARE GOING TO SLEEP... SLEEP... SLEEP! YOU ARE COMPLETELY UNDER MY CONTROL... SLEEP!

NOW YOU WILL DO WHATEVER I COMMAND!

YES, MASTER!

ALL RIGHT, BOYS! HE'S UNDER MY SPELL! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

MAKE HIM CHOKE HIMSELF!

MAKE HIM KILL HIMSELF ANY WAY HE WANTS!

WAIT A MINUTE! YOU BOYS DON'T UNDERSTAND! UNDER HYPNOSIS, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET A PERSON TO DESTROY HIMSELF... BUT WE CAN GET HIM TO DO SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU TO KILL HIM!

I GOT AN IDEA HOW TO GET RID OF THIS RUBBER COPPER! HYPO BRING HIM OUTSIDE! WE'LL GET HIM TO STRETCH OUT SO THIN THAT OUR BULLETS WILL HAVE TO PUNCH HOLES IN HIM!

PLASTIC MAN, I WANT YOU TO STRETCH YOURSELF ACROSS THE FIELDS AS THIN AS YOU CAN GET!

I WILL DO AS YOU ORDER!

THAT'S FINE! NOW LET HIM HAVE IT! CUT HIM IN TWO!

STOP IT! IT'S USELESS! WE CAN'T KILL HIM THIS WAY!

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA! HYPO TELL HIM TO CONTRACT DOWN TO THE SIZE OF A PEBBLE!

YOU ARE STILL IN MY POWER! PLASTIC MAN I WANT YOU TO CHANGE YOURSELF DOWN TO THE SIZE OF A PEBBLE!

YES, A PEBBLE!

WE OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO SQUASH HIM THIS WAY!

STAMP HARDER!

IT'S NO USE! I CAN FLATTEN HIM BUT I CAN'T KILL HIM!

IF WE CAN'T KILL HIM MAYBE WE CAN JUST MAKE HIM HELPLESS FOREVER!

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!

CLU NK!

NOW LISTEN CLOSELY! I WANT YOU TO TWIST YOURSELF UP IN A KNOT OUT OF WHICH IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO UNRAVEL YOU!

I HEAR AND OBEY!

PLAS! I COULDN'T =PUFF= =PUFF= GET A RIDE! I =PUFF= RAN ALL THE WAY!

PLAS! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY BUDDY! THEY CAN'T...

SCRAM, BO! YOU'RE IN THE WAY HERE!

I'LL FIX HIM!

YOU ARE A MULE! NOW STAY QUIETLY IN THE BARN!

BUT PLAS IS... HEE! HAW! HEE! HAW!

ALL RIGHT, PLASTIC MAN, CONTINUE THE TANGLING!

HEE! HAW!

CHOMP CHOMP

SMACK!

HUH? WHERE AM I? OH, I REMEMBER NOW!

I WAS AFTER THE MARTIN GANG... AND NOW I'VE GOT THEM!

STOP! WE GIVE UP!

OW!

UGH!

SOCK!

POW!

BAM!

AND NOW YOU, FISH EYE!

LOOK INTO MY EYES! YOU ARE FALLING ASLEEP!

I'M GOING TO SET YOU WAY OUT HERE WHERE YOUR EYES CAN'T AFFECT ME AND NOW I'LL ROCK YOU TO SLEEP!

THUD!

THUD!

THUD!

YOU OUTLAWS ARE COMING BACK WITH ME... BUT WAIT! WHERE'S WOOZY?

HUH? WHERE AM I? WHEN DID I GO FOR AN AIRPLANE TRIP?

POW!

PLAS, YOU KNOW I'VE GOT A FEELING I'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE A JACKASS!

DON'T WORRY, WOOZY! YOU'RE BEING A JACKASS CERTAINLY CAME IN HANDY THIS TIME!

The Coroner's Clue

EVEN with the windows open, the smell of gas still hung heavy in the dusty and cluttered bachelor apartment of Sam Lucas and Jack Ford. And the body of Lucas, clad only in pajamas, sagged limply in a kitchen chair with the head on the gas stove. Detective Bert Groves and Dixon, the janitor of the apartment house, stood looking at the lifeless figure.

"Looks like a simple case of suicide," commented Groves as he turned to Dixon. "No sign of violence or of a struggle. But we'll have to make a routine check to be sure. While we're waiting for the coroner to get here, tell me again exactly what happened."

"Well," explained Dixon, "I was sweeping the downstairs hall when I saw Mr. Ford who shares this apartment going out alone. He and Mr. Lucas have a business together so they usually leave together so I says—"

"Just a minute," interrupted Groves. "What business are they in? Do you know?"

"Sure," replied Dixon. "It's an electrical supply store just down the street. So anyway I asked where Mr. Lucas was and Mr. Ford said he wanted to sleep a while longer since he'd been out late last night. Well, I didn't think anything about that and I went on with my sweeping and had got up here on the third floor when I thought I smelled gas. Pretty soon I was sure I did and it seemed to be coming from this apartment. So I knocked on the door three or four times and nobody answered so I used my pass key and came in. And there was Mr. Lucas, just like he is now."

"Did you touch anything?" inquired the detective.

"Sure, I had to," answered Dixon. "I turned off the gas and then I opened the windows. Then I felt of his pulse to see if he was alive and he wasn't. That's when I reported it to the police."

"Okay," nodded Groves. Then he turned to a police officer who was standing near the door in the other room. "Have Dixon here tell you just where this electrical supply store is and go there and find Ford," he ordered. "Tell him what's happened and bring him here at once."

About that time, Dr. Wilson, the coroner, arrived and began his examination. It seemed to Detective Groves that there was no doubt whatever as to the cause of death. The fellow had simply decided to end it all, made an excuse to his partner for staying at home that morning and taken the easiest way out. But a look of concern crossed the coroner's face. He left the kitchen and walked to the bedroom and stood looking at the two unmade beds. Then he called Groves and motioned for him to close the door.

It was several minutes after that when the detective and the coroner came from the bedroom. Jack Ford was there by that time and sat with his head in his hands, seeming to be shocked and grieved.

"I can't believe it," he told Groves. "I knew Sam was worried. We were both worried because our business has been bad and we were headed for the rocks. But I didn't think he was the kind to commit suicide."

"He wasn't," declared Groves calmly. "He didn't commit suicide. He was murdered."

"Murdered?" repeated Ford, looking up with a start. "How do you know? I mean, what makes you think that—"

"The coroner found the evidence," explained Detective Groves as he gestured toward Dr. Wilson who stood beside him. "That's why we have coroners on the job—to determine the cause of death. Sam Lucas was smothered by a feather pillow."

"But who would do a thing like that?" cried Ford, now trembling and on the verge of hysteria.

"The only person it could have been," snapped Goves suddenly assuming the role of the tough accuser, "was you."

Ford denied it for a while but he soon broke down and admitted his guilt. He had smothered Lucas in his bed with a feather pillow and then carried him to the kitchen and put him on the chair and turned on the gas jet. Their business was bad and they were going broke, he continued to confess, because he himself had been pocketing most of the money from the cash register and Lucas was getting wise.

After Ford had been handcuffed and taken away by the police, Dixon turned to Detective Groves. "That sure is bad," he said, shaking his head. "But I wish you'd tell me how you figured it out."

"I didn't," replied Groves. "The coroner did. He found fine feathers in the mouth and throat and nostrils of the dead man. He knew, then, that death had occurred by smothering. But the pillow was still on the bed and Lucas was in the kitchen. Besides, a man couldn't smother himself and then turn on a gas jet."

"And Ford thought it'd look like suicide and he'd go free," said Dixon.

"And he might have, too," added Detective Groves, "if it hadn't been for the coroner's clue."

PLASTIC MAN

YOU'LL NEVER STOP ME, PLASTIC MAN! I HAVE AN INVENTION TO TAKE CARE OF ANY SITUATION!

WHEN I CATCH YOU, DR. QUOMQUAT, YOU'LL HAVE TO INVENT SOMETHING TO GET OUT OF A STRAIGHT JACKET!

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WOOZY, I SEE WHERE THE INVENTOR'S SHOW OPENS IN TOWN TODAY! WE OUGHT TO GO SEE IT!

I CAN'T! I'M TOO BUSY!

STOP COMPLAINING! A LITTLE SCIENTIFIC AWARENESS WILL DO YOU GOOD!

INVENTOR'S SHOW! *BAH!* IT'S A WASTE OF TIME FOR TWO SUCH HIGH POWERED CRIME FIGHTERS AS US!

INVENTOR'S SHOW

HMM! THAT ROUND MAN OVER THERE WILL DO VERY NICELY!

ELECTRONICS

PARDON ME, MY GOOD MAN, BUT I'M CONFUSED ABOUT ONE OF THE EXHIBITS! YOU LOOK LIKE AN INTELLIGENT MAN AND I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD EXPLAIN IT TO ME!

HUH? WHO ME?

OH, SURE! SURE! JUST ASK ME ANYTHING AT ALL! YOU SEE I COME FROM A LONG LINE OF INVENTORS ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE!

THAT OLD FELLOW IS MAKING A BIG MISTAKE BUT HE'LL DISCOVER IT SOON ENOUGH!

OH, MY BOOK! I DROPPED IT!

EXIT

SPLAT!

WOULD YOU BE KIND ENOUGH TO PICK UP THE BOOK, YOUNG MAN? MY BACK...

OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT! I'LL GET IT!

YOU GOT IT!

POW!

HEH! HEH! THIS IS JUST THE RIGHT TYPE FOR MY EXPERIMENT...YOUNG, STRONG AND NOT BOTHERED TOO MUCH BY BRAINS!

LATER...

HUH? WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?

YOUNG MAN, YOU ARE INDEED FORTUNATE! YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN A VERY IMPORTANT EXPERIMENT!

I AM DR. QUOMQUAT, WORLD FAMOUS SCIENTIST AND INVENTOR, AND I HAVE HIT ON SOMETHING BIG! I AM GOING TO PROVE THAT MAN CAN LIVE WITHOUT FOOD ...JUST BY BREATHING VITAMIN FILLED AIR!

ER... MY EXPERIMENTS DIDN'T WORK OUT SO WELL WITH ANIMALS AND BIRDS BUT MAYBE IT WILL WITH A STRONG HUMAN BEING!

I DON'T WANT TO BE AN EXPERIMENT! I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

SILLY BOY! THINK OF THE GREAT HONOR YOU WILL HAVE WHEN MY INVENTION IS PERFECTED!

NOW YOU JUST RELAX! I'LL SET THE MACHINE TO BLOW VITAMINS INTO HERE AT REGULAR INTERVALS AND...

I SAY LET ME OUT! MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE FOOLING AROUND WITH! I'M WOOZY WINKS, THE ACE CRIME ...

OW! MY SHINS!

SOCK!

NOW YOU STAY HERE AND YOU WILL BE ALL RIGHT! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE EXHIBIT! THERE ARE MANY INVENTIONS THERE THAT I WANT TO STUDY!

I'M DOOMED! =SOB= DOOMED!

BACK AT THE INVENTOR'S SHOW...

RADIO DEPT

THERE'S THAT FELLOW WITH WHOM WOOZY WALKED AWAY... BUT WOOZY'S NOT WITH HIM!

I'D BETTER FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO WOOZY! HE CAN GET IN TROUBLE IN A PLACE WITH SO MANY GOOFY INVENTIONS!

MISTER, WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FRIEND WOOZY? YOU KNOW, THE PLUMP FELLOW IN THE GREEN SHIRT YOU WERE TALKING TO...

I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR! I DON'T KNOW ANYONE WHO ANSWERS TO SUCH A DESCRIPTION!

NOW I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG! I SAW YOU WALK OUT OF HERE WITH HIM! TELL ME WHERE HE IS OR I'LL...

HEY! COME BACK!

DETACHABLE LAPELS! I INVENTED THEM MYSELF! I KNEW THEY'D COME IN HANDY SOME-TIME!

I COULD CATCH HIM AND SWEAT OUT THE IN-FORMATION BUT MAYBE I'D DO BETTER TO TRAIL THE GUY AND LET HIM LEAD ME TO WOOZY!

THAT BIG GUY IS STILL FOLLOWING ME! I'LL DUCK DOWN HERE AND SHAKE HIM!

HE'S STILL AFTER ME! I'LL GET ON THIS TROLLEY CAR AND LOSE HIM!

CITY TRANSIT

THERE HE IS! FOR AN OLD MAN HE CERTAINLY MOVES FAST!

SOON...

AT LAST! I'VE LOST HIM!

BARBER

NOW I CAN LEISURELY STROLL TO MY LABORATORY AND CONTINUE MY EXPERIMENT!

KEEP GOING! I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

BARBER

SHORTLY AFTER...

HUH! I DIDN'T SHAKE HIM!

NO YOU DIDN'T AND I'LL SHAKE THE DAY-LIGHTS OUT OF YOU IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO...

WOOZY!

PLAS! GET ME OUT OF HERE!

NO MEDDLER IS GOING TO RUIN MY EXPERIMENT!

BZZZZ

ANOTHER ONE OF MY INVENTIONS! YOU'LL NEVER STOP ME!

THIS MAN MUST BE OUT OF HIS HEAD! I'VE GOT TO GET WOOZY AND GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT FIRST I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM FROM USING ANY MORE OF HIS INVENTIONS ON ME!

FOILED! BUT I'M NOT THROUGH YET!

IF I HIT YOU ONCE MORE YOU WILL BE THROUGH! NOW BE A NICE GUY AND OPEN WOOZY'S CAGE!

YOU'LL NEVER STOP ME! NOW TRY ANOTHER OF MY INVENTIONS!

CRASH

AND JUST IN CASE YOU DON'T SMOTHER TO DEATH MY KNIFE SHOOTING INVENTION WILL FINISH YOU OFF!

TAT TAT TAT TAT

RAT-TAT

TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT

PLEASE, DOC, DON'T SLICE UP PLAS! I'LL BE YOUR EXPERIMENT... ONLY STOP SHOOTING THOSE KNIVES!

THERE! THAT SHOULD FINISH HIM! HUH! WHAT'S THIS... A PECULIAR LOOKING PEBBLE!

I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE THIS COLOR... AND WHAT'S THIS? IT'S SENDING OUT TENDRILS!

THIS IS AMAZING! I AM INDEED A GREAT SCIENTIST! I HAVE DISCOVERED A STONE THAT GROWS!

HUH! WHAT'S THIS? I CAN'T MOVE!

THIS IS ONE OF MY INVENTIONS, DOC! HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

PLAS! YOU'RE SAFE!

COME ON, WOOZY, YOU'RE FREE NOW! WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THIS MAD GENIUS TO THE LUNATIC ASYLUM WHERE HE BELONGS!

SURE, PLAS, COME ON! I'LL FEEL SAFER IN THE LOONEY BIN THAN AT THAT INVENTOR'S SHOW!

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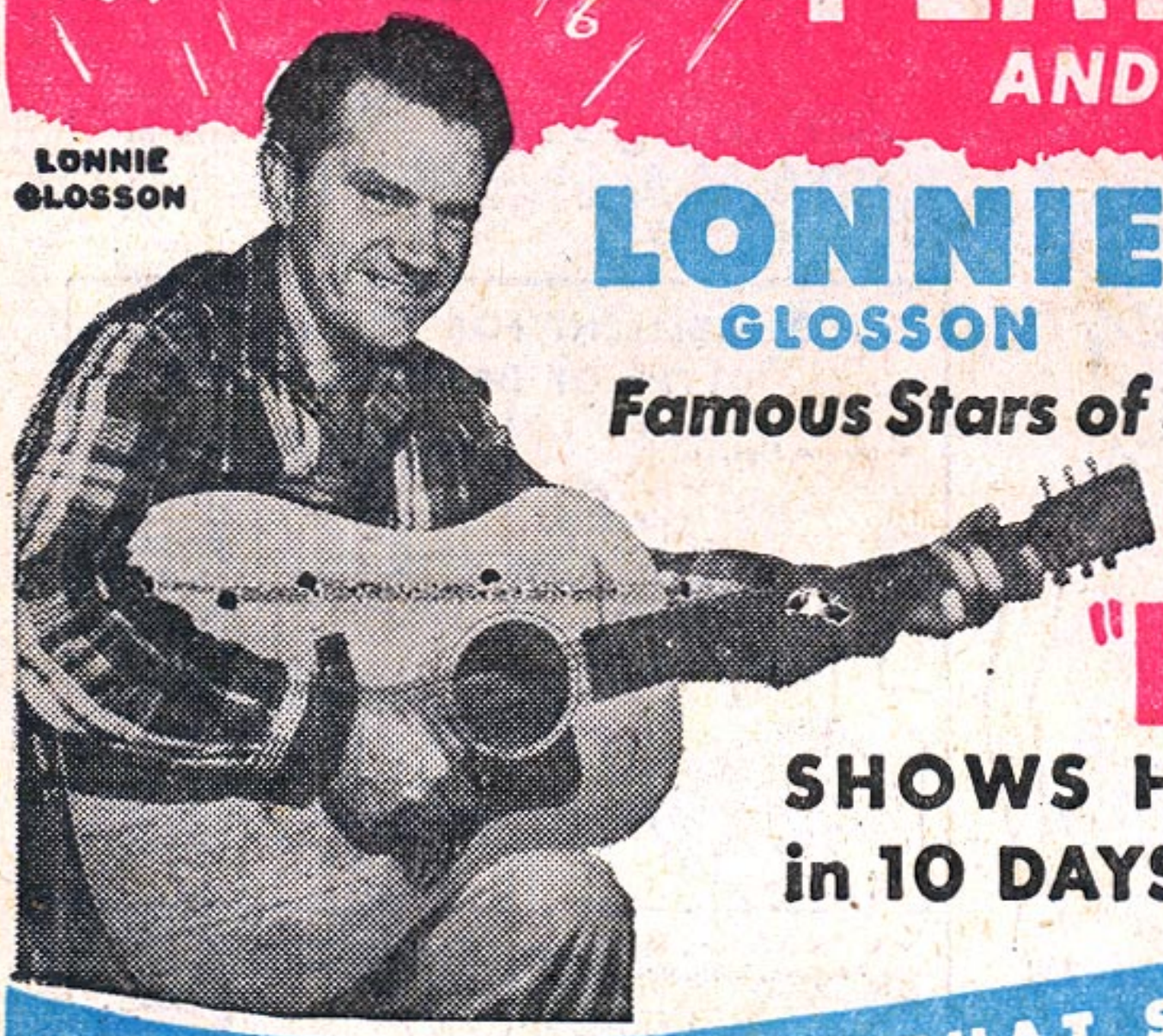
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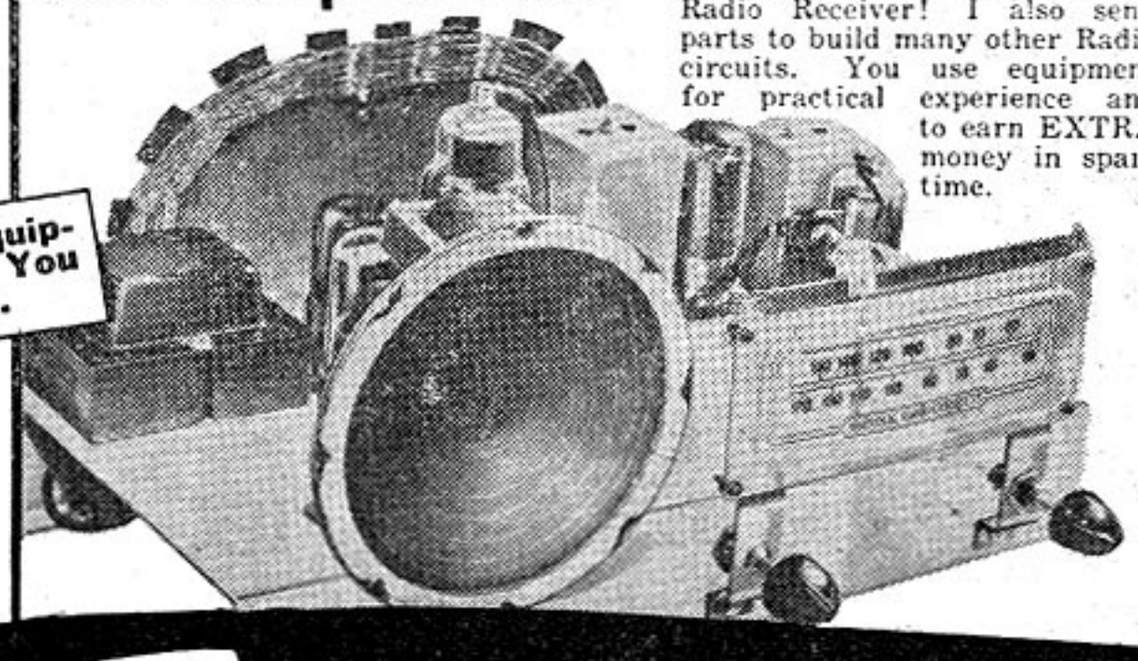


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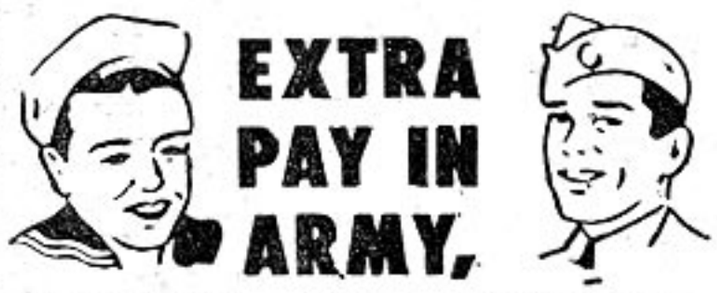
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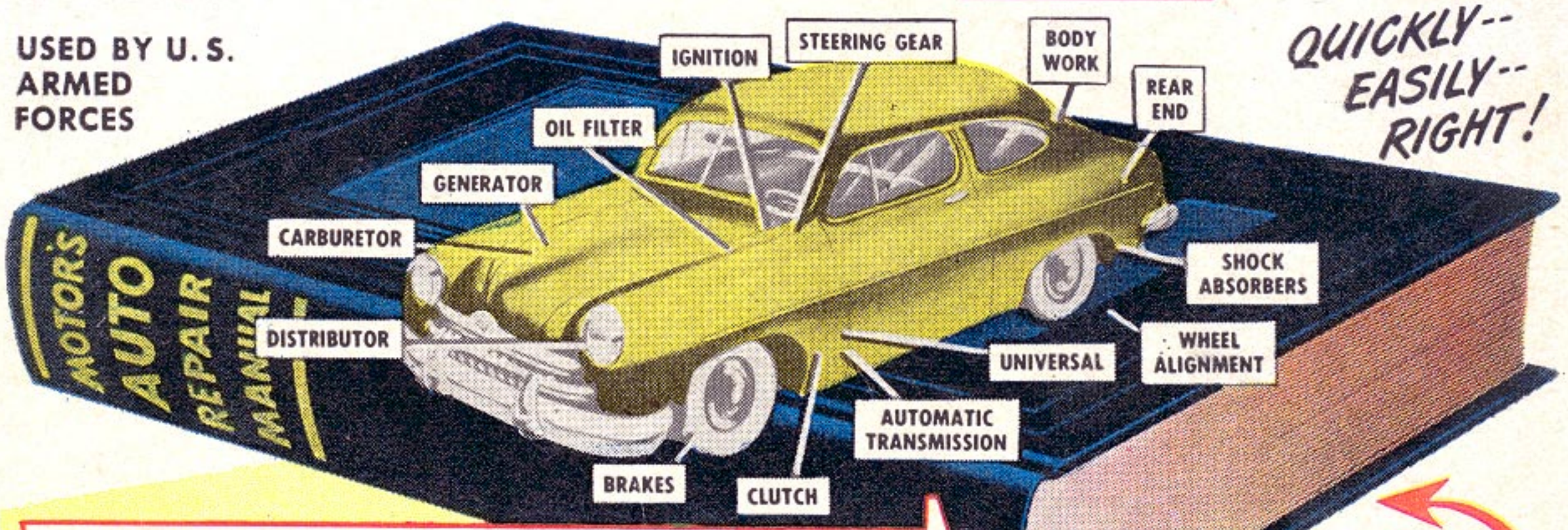
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